

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/652,909

Examiner

Quang N. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

FUSELIER ET AL.

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2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 08/16/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment maybe filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

**--METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING WEB-BASED INFORMATION
EXCHANGE VIA A CENTRALIZED WEB STRUCTURE FOR MANAGING
PROJECTS AND FUNDING REQUESTS--**

3. Claims 1-33 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's arguments filed on 08/16/2004, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art of record teaches the claimed invention substantially, but it fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a method for facilitating Web-based

information exchange, comprising: providing a centralized Web structure for the Web-based information of an organization, the Web structure comprising a plurality of Web sites linked together to form the Web structure; **identifying a user** requesting access to the Web structure **by a password that is configured to be used for a limited time**; and **tracking, via the Web structure, a shift of responsibility of making a first decision on a funding request from a first user to a second user, wherein the shift occurs when a second decision is made on the funding request by the first user** as set forth in independent claims 1 and 19. Claims 1-12, 19 and 33 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitation listed above.

The prior art of record teaches the claimed invention substantially, but it fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a system and method for facilitating Web-based information exchange, comprising: providing a Web structure for storing the Web-based information of a business; and **electronic tracking, via a Web-based application, actions that include a decision regarding "implementing" (or "reviewing" as in claim 20) an idea and a decision regarding obtaining funding to implement the idea, wherein one of the actions occurs at a level within the business that is separate from any other levels within the business in which remaining of the actions occur** as set forth in independent claims 13 and 20. Claims 13-18 and 20-32 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitation listed above.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Examiner's Amendment."


6. As requested by the Applicant in the Amendment filed on 08/16/2004, the Examiner acknowledges that the patent application (SN 09/652,909) makes a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 (e) and not under 35 U.S.C. 120 and/or 121.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quang N. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3886.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER